



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting conducted remotely, via Zoom application -- advanced registration was required

In Attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, Mara Vatz, Tim Lecuivre (Arlington Tree Warden), Beth Melofchik (Guest), Jo Anne Preston (Guest)

1. *Approve Regular Meeting Minutes*
 - January 2022 approved (unanimous).
 - February 2022 approved, with edits (unanimous).
2. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)*
 - Tree Bylaw activity -- projects
 - i. Tree Plans received
 1. 77 Rhinecliff St. (Brian Callahan) -- rotated house plans to work around large, 30" diameter tree; however, two norway maple (12" and 9" diameter) and one elm (10") protected trees taken; \$11,625 in fees deposited into Trees Please Fund.
 2. 238 Park Ave. (Josh Kelly, JK Development Group, Inc.) -- Arbor Care helped with Tree Plan, and is working with a landscape architect on project; one otherwise protected tree coming down due to poor health; other public and protected trees will be appropriately shielded during construction.
 - ii. Watch item(s) -- a parcel of land between 31 and 45 Hopkins Rd., a large beech tree would be involved; currently, parcel is possibly not large enough for development, as per the Arlington Building Inspector; Tree Warden will be scrutinizing.
 - Tree hearing(s) -- potential future hearing for 261 Hillside Ave.; honey locust (16" diameter) tree on George St. -side; homeowner wants it removed due to normal tree debris inconvenience; no hearing application or advertisement fee yet provided to Town.
 - Tree health/management news
 - i. 2022 tree order
 1. Schichtel's Nursery -- 150 trees total for Spring planting (three large species: hackberry, tulip, and london plane; three medium: hardy rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*, 45 ft. tall / 45 ft. wide at maturity, non-native), honey locust, and Green Spire linden; four small: Robin Hill serviceberry, Ivory Silk tree lilac (non-native), Sargent cherry, and maackia (non-native). Additional trees for special plantings?
 2. Tim suggests providing him some ideas for areas to plant and the coordination with other departments / "friends of" groups that can happen.

- ii. Arbor Day plans -- under development, based on pandemic/restrictions.
 - Other Town projects where trees are present
 - i. Arlington High School (AHS) -- mesh fencing has been removed, some trenching has occurred around AHS trees for utilities. Tim is engaged and will be doing tree management to work to keep them healthy.
 - ii. Stratton School -- no movement on this "Safe Walk to Schools" project, specifically. Tim noticed two trees were unhealthy, which have since been removed. Other healthy trees near the project would require tree hearings before any taking.
 - Trees Please Fund expenditures -- skipped due to time constraints.
 - Other
 - i. Tree Crew working on snow removal and banner changes; pruning and potential tree hazards on backlog; response rate for pruning/removal requests is currently at six weeks, and quickly catching up on backlog.
 - ii. Lost one large tree at Stratton School area due to storm this past Winter.
3. *Tree Bylaw Warrant Article (Susan)* -- supported by Select Board; submitted for 2022 Town Meeting
4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
- Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, Conservation Commission, Open Space Comm., Park & Recreation Commission, School Comm., ZBA) and updates on projects/policy involving trees (Eliza, Keith, Mara, Steve, Susan)
 - i. Trees at schools (From Chat in Zoom app.) -- Mara emailed the Superintendent, and is in the process of scheduling a meeting.
 - ii. Trees in parks (From Chat in Zoom app.) -- Keith spoke with Joe Connelly (Director of Recreation) about Department projects that could use tree plantings; he suggested three: Spy Pond Playground (in progress), Robbins Farm (\$960K renovation coming up soon), and the Reservoir (after a year, evaluate where tree canopy could be enhanced, based on usage); mentioned Robillard Field (Forest/Summer Sts., with water source) as well. He is also willing to advocate for Buck Field (Summer St.) and Poet's Corner Field (Shelley/Wadsworth Rds., with water source). Joe will let the Parks and Fields Department know about ATC support for plantings, perhaps in other park areas as well.
 - iii. Other outreach to Town orgs. skipped due to time constraints.
5. *ATC Annual Report* -- input finalized and sent to DPW, to be included as part of their report.
6. *Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town Update*
- Community Canopy Program for 2022 (Eliza, Keith, Mary Ellen)
 - i. New England Nurseries is sending price lists; costs have gone up; limited supply. **ATC will pick tree orders.**
 - ii. Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) would like more trees. **Keith will coordinate with Jo Anne.**
 - Back of Sidewalk (MGL Chpt. 87) Program
 - i. Reviewed draft from Town Counsel with DPW Director and Tim, who provided additional feedback; now waiting for input from Town Counsel.
 - ii. UU Church (Mass. Ave. / Pleasant St.) wants a few trees; there are no street tree planting spots on Pleasant St.; Church is planting four trees on Mass. Ave.

- At UU Church at Pleasant St and Mass Ave and strip of land behind Robbins Library, there is space for 5-8 trees; could be serviced by either Community Canopy Program or Back of Sidewalk Program; gas leaks are an issue in the area.
- Planning Department outreach (Eliza, Susan) -- the Arlington Environmental Design Review process was not discussed.

7. *Gas Leaks Taskforce update (Susan)* -- not discussed.

8. *New Business*

- Participation in pilot program for hybrid (combination of remote and in-person) Town committee meetings, beginning in July -- ATC is okay with being part of the pilot, but would like to know if there is a minimum of more than one member needed show up in-person. **MEA will respond to the Town's e-mail.**
- Planting for eagles -- Tim is intrigued; suggests a follow-up to discuss possible locations. He would coordinate with cemetery/park/etc. where the appropriate trees might be planted.
- Spring Fling (May 21st) -- Arlington Artist-in-Residence to make an ATC poster. **Eliza will submit an application with suggested ATC programs.**
- Arlington Democratic committee tree planting request -- consensus is that AHA property would be a good site. **Keith/MEA/Susan to contact Jo Anne for AHA planting possibility.**
- AHS Sustainability Club tree planting request. **Keith/MEA to contact Jo Anne for AHA planting possibility.**
- Five-year review of 2018 Arlington Tree Management Plan -- not discussed.
- Other
 - i. Girl Scouts reached out to Tim for a planting; Jo Anne suggests they plant at AHA and meet some the residents.
 - ii. Request to perhaps use tree grates for sidewalk trees, particularly in the Heights. **Jo Anne asks to be on the agenda for a future ATC meeting to present on methods.**
 - iii. New idea about planting at schools: plant a "Graduating Class" tree at each school at the end of the school year; effect would be to put nine new trees on those Town properties every year.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:45 PM

Next meeting: April 13, 2022